

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated March 8, 2006, claims 1-18 were pending in this application, of which claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 12 and 13 are independent. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 7, 16/7, 17/4 and 17/7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is noted that claim 18/16 should also be allowed because the claim depends from allowed claim 4.

In this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 12, 13, 16 and 17 have been amended, and claims 2 and 6 canceled. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Specifically, claims 1 and 3 have been amended to include all the limitations recited in claims 2 and 6, respectively. Claim 5 has been amended to improve wording and to be dependent on claim 1. Claims 8 and 13 have been amended based on Figs. 6 and 9, and relevant description of the specification, respectively. Claim 7 has been amended as to form. Adequate descriptive support for the amendment to claim 9 can be found on, for example, paragraph [0036] of the specification. Further, adequate descriptive support for the amendment to claim 12 can be found in, for example, Fig. 8 and relevant description of the specification. Claim 16 has been amended to be dependent on any one of claims 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15, and claim 17 has been amended to be dependent on any one of claims 1, 3-5 and 7-15.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 13-15, 16/2, 16/10, 16/14, 16/15, 17/1, 17/2, 17/8, 17/10, 17/13-17/15 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Mukawa et al.

This rejection is traversed. In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations recited in claim 2. Applicants submit that Mukawa et al. do not disclose

an illuminating device wherein “an optical integrator... is provided on the light exit side of said light mixing means,” originally recited in claim 2.

The Examiner asserted that optical systems 14, 58 and polarizer 59 in Fig. 8 of Mukawa et al. correspond to the claimed optical integrator. The Examiner also identified reflective hologram element 17 of Mukawa et al. as the claimed light mixing means. Mukawa et al. in Fig. 8 show that optical systems 14, 58 and polarizer 59 are provided on a light incident side of reflective hologram element 17. Accordingly, Mukawa et al. do not disclose “an optical integrator... is provided on the light exit side of said light mixing means,” recited in claim 1, as amended (emphasis added).

Independent claim 8 has been amended to clarify the term “vicinity” defining where the light emitting point of the white light source is located in order to clarify arrangement of the claimed elements.

Mukawa et al. do not disclose that “the light emitted from said auxiliary light source is condensed in a concave portion of the concave reflecting element and in the vicinity of the light emitting point of said white light source,” recited in amended claim 8. Fig. 1 of Mukawa et al. shows that the light from semiconductor laser 7 is condensed outside of reflector 9.

Independent claim 13 has been amended to recite that “an optical member having a plurality of optical elements disposed with spaces therebetween for respectively introducing the lights emitted from said first light source in a direction,” and “a second group of light sources respectively arranged in the spaces, and respectively emitting nearly parallel lights in the direction.” Applicants submit that Mukawa et al. do not disclose the above limitations, recited in claim 13.

Dependent claims 8, 10, 13, 15, 16/10, 16/15, 17/1, 17/8, 17/10, 17/13, 17/15 and 18 are also patentably distinguishable over Mukawa et al. at least because they respectively include all the limitations recited in independent claims 1, 8 and 13. It is also noted that dependent claims 14, 16/14 and 17/14 are patentable at least because they include all the limitations recited in independent claim 12, as discussed below.¹

Accordingly, Mukawa et al. do not disclose all the limitations of the claimed invention within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 102. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and favorable consideration thereof.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 16/5, 16/6, 17/3, 17/5 and 17/6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mukawa et al. in view of Wichner et al.

This rejection is traversed. In response, independent claim 3 has been amended to include the limitations recited in claim 6. Applicants submit that the applied combination does not teach, at minimum, “each of the solid-state light sources and each of lenses composing the pair of fly's eye lenses are arranged in correspondence with each other,” recited in claim 3, as amended.

Although Mukawa et al. teach a plurality of solid-state light sources, Wichner et al. do not teach “each of the solid-state light sources and each of lenses composing the pair of fly's eye lenses are arranged in correspondence with each other,” as recited in claim 3. Wichner et al. state, “[c]ompensating light existing integrator imaging lens 358 reflects off mirror 360 through one of first flyseye lenslets 350 and through one of second flyseye lenslets 352” (column 8, lines

¹ Applicants believe that claims 14, 16/14, 17/14 and 18/16 should have been rejected together with claim 12 (see paragraph 34 of the Office Action).

59-62). However, Wichner et al. do not teach the arrangement in which there are a plurality of solid-state light-emitting device 144.

Dependent claim 17/3 is also patentably distinguishable over Mukawa et al. and Wichner et al. at least because it includes all the limitations recited in independent claim 3. Dependent claims 5, 16 and 17/5 are also patentably distinguishable over Mukawa et al. and Wichner et al. at least because those claims include all the limitations recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Mukawa et al. and Wichner et al., either individually or in combination, do not teach an illuminating device including all the limitations recited in the claims. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and favorable consideration thereof.

Claims 9, 11, 16/11, 17/9 and 17/11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mukawa et al. in view of Kudo.

This rejection is traversed. In response, claim 9 has been amended to recite “the aspect ratio of the light incidence surface of the rod prism and that of a light emission surface of the rod prism are substantially the same as the aspect ratio of an object to be illuminated.” Applicants submit that the applied combination does not teach this additional limitation.

Dependent claims 11, 16/11, 17/9 and 17/11 are also patentably distinguishable over the applied combination of Mukawa et al. and Kudo at least because they respectively include all the limitations recited in independent claim 9.

Accordingly, Mukawa et al. and Kudo, either individually or in combination, do not teach an illuminating device including all the limitations recited in claims 9, 11, 16/11, 17/9 and 17/11.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and favorable consideration thereof.

Claims 12 and 17/12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto in view of Mukawa et al.

This rejection is traversed. Claim 12 has been amended to recite “the light from the first light source being emitted in a direction different from the light from the second light source” (emphasis added). Applicants submit that the applied combination of Matsumoto and Mukawa et al. does not teach an illuminating device including, at minimum, the newly added limitation.

Masumoto teaches that the light from lamp 1A is emitted in a direction the same as the light form lamp 2A. In addition, Mukawa et al. are silent on this direction of emitting light.

Accordingly, the applied combination does not teach an illuminating device including all the limitations recited in independent claim 12. Dependent claim 17/12 is also patentably distinguishable over Matsumoto and Mukawa et al. at least because it includes all the limitations recited in independent claim 12. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 and 17/12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and favorable consideration thereof.

Conclusion

It should, therefore, be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

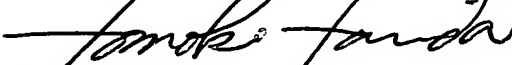
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

Application No.: 10/760,367

including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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